

Appln No. 10/820,480
Amdt date January 4, 2010
Reply to Office action of June 10, 2009

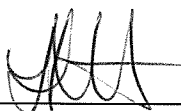
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final rejection dated June 10, 2009 and the Advisory action dated September 21, 2009, the Examiner rejected claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Moaddeb, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,078) in view of Skalsky, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,844,099). However, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 30 to recite that the conductive porous coating (conductive porous material in claim 30, or thin metal coating in claim 15) has a thickness of about 0.2 μ m to about 2 μ m. Neither Moaddeb nor Skalsky teach or suggest such a feature. Rather, Skalsky appears to disclose much thicker electrode leaves. In particular, Skalsky discloses electrode leaves made of biocompatible conductive material with a thickness of 50 to 300 microns, which is 150 to 250 times greater than that recited in the present claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 30, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-14 and 16-28, are allowable over Moaddeb and Skalsky.

Claims 1-30 remain pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 15, 29 and 30 to place the claims in condition for allowance. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings, for example at page 11, lines 31-33. No new matter is presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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